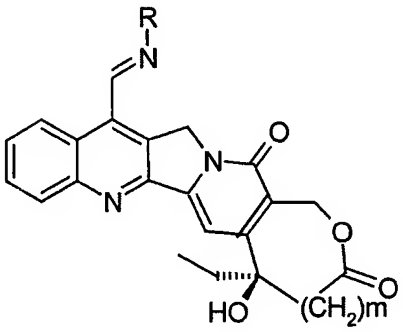
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A ~~compounds with a~~compound of general formula (I)



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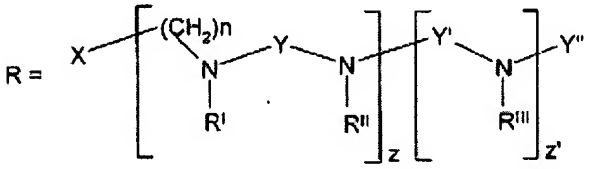


m is the number 0 or 1;

Z and Z' are an integer ranging from 0 to 2 when they are different or are an integer ranging from 1 to 2 when they are the same;

Y and Y', which can be the same or different, are $(CH_2)_{n1}$; $(CH_2)_{n2}$-CH[$NR^{VII}(CH_2)_{n4}$-NHR^{I}]-$(CH_2)_{n3}$; CH_2-CH[CH_2-CH_2]$_2$- or $(CH_2)_{n2}$-N[$(CH_2)_{n4}$-NHR^{IV}]-$(CH_2)_{n3}$;

Y" is selected from the group consisting of H; cycloalkyl ~~[[C3-C7]]~~C_3-C_7; $(CH_2)_{n5}$-N[CH_2-CH_2]$_2$N-$(CH_2)n_6NHR^{V}$; (CH2)n_7 CH[CH_2- CH_2]$_2NR^{v}$;

X is O, or is a simple bond;

n-n7, which can be the same or different, are an integer ranging from 0 to 5;

R^{I}, R^{II}, R^{III}, R^{IV}, and R^{V}, which can be the same or different, are a protective group for the nitrogen to which they are bound; CO_2R^{VI} ; CO_2CH_2Ar; CO_2(9-fluorenylmethyl); $(CH_2)_{n5}$-$NHCO_2R^{VI}$; CH_2Ar; COAr; $(CH_2)_{n5}$-$NHCO_2CH_2Ar$; $(CH2)_{n5}$-$NHCO_2$-(9-fluorenylmethyl)~~[[.]]~~;

R^{VI} is a straight or branched (C_1-C_6) alkyl;

R^{VII} is H or R^{I}-R^{V};

Ar is a C_6-C_{12} aromatic residue, phenyl, optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from: halogen, hydroxy, C_1-C_5 alkyl, C_1-C_5 alkoxy, phenyl, cyano, nitro, -$NR^{VIII}R^{IX}$, where R^{VIII} and R^{IX}, which can be the same or different, are hydrogen, straight or branched (C_1-C_5) alkyl, or

Ar is a heterocyclic group, said heterocyclic group containing at least one heteroatom selected from a nitrogen atom, optionally substituted with a (C_1-C_5) alkyl group, and/or oxygen and/or sulphur; said heterocycle can be substituted with one or more groups selected from halogen, hydroxy, C_1-C_5 alkyl, C_1-C_5 alkoxy, phenyl, cyano, nitro,

-$NR^{VIII}R^{IX}$, where R^{VIII} and R^{IX}, which can be the same or different, are hydrogen, straight or branched (C_1-C_5) alkyl, the N1-oxides, racemic mixtures, their ~~individua~~individual enantiomers, their ~~individuai~~individual diastereoisomers, the E and Z forms, their mixtures, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts.

16. (Canceled).

17. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 15, in which the protective groups are selected from the group consisting of: CO_2R^{VI}; CO_2CH_2Ar; CO_2-(9-fluorenylmethyl); $(CH_2)_{n5}$-NH CO_2R^{VI}; $(CH2)_{n5}$-$NHCO_2CH_2Ar$~~[[;]]~~ and $(CH2)_{n5}$-$NHCO_2$-(9-fluorenylmethyl)~~, in which R^{VI} is as defined above~~.

18. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 17, in which the protective groups are selected from the group consisting of tert-butoxycarbonyl; benzyloxycarbonyl~~[[;]]~~ and 9-fluorenylmethyloxycarbonyl.

19. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 15, in which m is 0.

20. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 19, selected from the group consisting of:

tert-butylester of 20S-(4-{[3-(7-camptothecinylidene-amino)-propyl]-tert-butoxycarbonyl-amino}-butyl)-(3-tert-butoxycarbonylaminopropyl)-carbamic acid;

tert-butylester of 20S-(4-{[3-(7-camptothecinylidene-amino)-propyl]-tertbutoxycarbonyl-amino}-butyl)-carbamic acid; and

benzyl ester of 20S-(4-{[3-(7-camptothecinylidene-amino)-propyl]-benzyloxycarbonyl-amino}-butyl)-carbamic acid.

21. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 15, in which m is 1.

22. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 21, selected from the group consisting of:

tert-butylester of 20RS-(4-{[3-(7-homocamptothecinylidene-amino)-propyl]-tertbutoxycarbonyl-amino}-butyl)-(3-tert-butoxycarbonylaminopropyl)-carbamic acid;

tert-butylester of 20RS-(4-{[3-(7-homocampto-thecinylidene-amino)-propyl]-tertbutoxycarbonyl-amino}-butyl)-carbamic acid; and

benzyl ester of 20S-(4-{[3-(7-homocamptothecinylidene-amino)-propyl]-benzyloxycarbonyl-amino}-butyl)-carbamic acid.

23. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition containing at least one compound according to claim 15 as the active ingredient in admixture with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle and/or excipient.

24. (Previously presented) A method of inhibiting topoisomerase comprising administering to a subject in the need of the same an effective amount of a compound of claims 15.

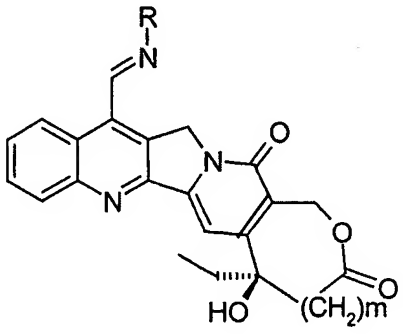
25.-29. (Canceled).

30. (New) A method of treating cancer, said cancer being sensitive to topoisomerase inhibitor, comprising administering to a subject in need of the same an effective amount of a topoisomerase inhibitor compound of claim 15.

31. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein said cancer is lung cancer, non-microcytoma lung cancer, colorectal cancer, gastric cancer, prostate cancer or glioma.

32. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein said cancer is non-microcytoma lung cancer, or gastric cancer.

33. (New) A compound of general formula (I)



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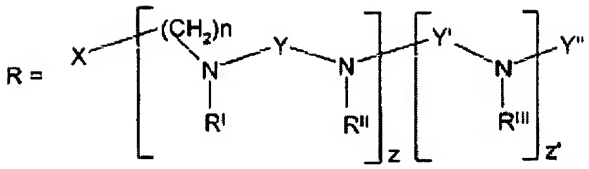
R = 

m is the number 0 or 1;

Z and Z' are an integer ranging from 0 to 2 when they are different or are an integer ranging from 1 to 2 when they are the same;

Y and Y', which can be the same or different, are $(CH_2)_{n1}$; $(CH_2)_{n2}$.CH[$NR^{VII}(CH_2)_{n4}$-NHR^{I}]-$(CH_2)_{n3}$; CH_2-CH[CH_2-CH_2]$_2$- or $(CH_2)_{n2}$-N[$(CH_2)_{n4}$-NHR^{IV}]-$(CH_2)_{n3}$;

Y" is selected from the group consisting of H; cycloalkyl C_3-C_7; $(CH_2)_{n5}$-N[CH_2-CH_2]$_2$N-$(CH_2)n_6NHR^{V}$; $(CH_2)n_7$ CH[CH_2- CH_2]$_2NR^{V}$;

X is O, or is a simple bond;

n-n7, which can be the same or different, are an integer ranging from 0 to 5;

R^{I}, R^{II}, R^{III}, R^{IV}, and R^{V}, which can be the same or different, are a protective group for the nitrogen to which they are bound, said protective group is selected from the group consisting of: CO_2R^{VI}; CO_2CH_2Ar; CO_2-(9-fluorenylmethyl); $(CH_2)_{n5}$-NH CO_2R^{VI}; $(CH_2)_{n5}$-$NHCO_2CH_2Ar$; $(CH_2)_{n5}$-$NHCO_2$-(9-fluorenylmethyl);

R^{VI} is a straight or branched (C_1-C_6) alkyl;

R^{VII} is H or R^{I}-R^{V};

Ar is a C_6-C_{12} aromatic residue, phenyl, optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from: halogen, hydroxy, C_1-C_5 alkyl, C_1-C_5 alkoxy, phenyl, cyano, nitro, -$NR^{VIII}R^{IX}$, where R^{VIII}

and R^{IX}, which can be the same or different, are hydrogen, straight or branched (C_1-C_5) alkyl, or Ar is a heterocyclic group, said heterocyclic group containing at least one heteroatom selected from a nitrogen atom, optionally substituted with a (C_1-C_5) alkyl group, and/or oxygen and/or sulphur; said heterocycle can be substituted with one or more groups selected from halogen, hydroxy, C_1-C_5 alkyl, C_1-C_5 alkoxy, phenyl, cyano, nitro, $-NR^{VIII}R^{IX}$, where R^{VIII} and R^{IX}, which can be the same or different, are hydrogen, straight or branched (C_1-C_5) alkyl, the N1-oxides, racemic mixtures, their individual enantiomers, their individual diastereoisomers, the E and Z forms, their mixtures, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts.

34. (New) A compound according to claim 33, in which the protective groups are selected from the group consisting of tert-butoxycarbonyl; benzyloxycarbonyl and 9-fluorenyl-methyloxycarbonyl.

35. (New) A compound according to claim 33, in which m is 0.

36. (New) A compound according to claim 35, selected from the group consisting of:

tert-butylester of 20S-(4-{[3-(7-camptothecinylidene-amino)-propyl]-tert-butoxycarbonyl-amino}-butyl)-(3-tert-butoxycarbonylaminopropyl)-carbamic acid;

tert-butylester of 20S-(4-{[3-(7-camptothecinylidene-amino)-propyl]-tertbutoxycarbonyl-amino}-butyl)-carbamic acid; and

benzyl ester of 20S-(4-{[3-(7-camptothecinylidene-amino)-propyl]-benzyloxycarbonyl-amino}-butyl)-carbamic acid.

37. (New) A compound according to claim 33, in which m is 1.

38. (New) A compound according to claim 37, selected from the group consisting of:

tert-butylester of 20RS-(4-{[3-(7-homocamptothecinylidene-amino)-propyl]-tertbutoxycarbonyl-amino}-butyl)-(3-tert-butoxycarbonylaminopropyl)-carbamic acid;

tert-butylester of 20RS-(4-{[3-(7-homocampto-thecinylidene-amino)-propyl]-tertbutoxycarbonyl-amino}-butyl)-carbamic acid; and

benzyl ester of 20S-(4-{[3-(7-homocamptothecinylidene-amino)-propyl]-benzyloxycarbonyl-amino}-butyl)-carbamic acid.

39. (New) A pharmaceutical composition containing at least one compound according to claim 33 as the active ingredient in admixture with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle and/or excipient.

40. (New) A method of inhibiting topoisomerase comprising administering to a subject in the need of the same an effective amount of a compound of claim 33.

41. (New) A method of treating cancer, said cancer being sensitive to topoisomerase inhibitor, comprising administering to a subject in need of the same an effective amount of a topoisomerase inhibitor of a compound of claim 33.

42. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein said cancer is lung cancer, non-microcytoma lung cancer, colorectal cancer, gastric cancer, prostate cancer or glioma.

43. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein said cancer is non-microcytoma lung cancer, or gastric cancer.

44. (New) A method of treating cancer, wherein said cancer is non-microcytoma lung cancer or gastric cancer comprising administering to a subject in the need of the same an effective amount of a topoisomerase inhibitor compound of claim 33.

45. (New) A method of treating cancer, wherein said cancer is non-microcytoma lung cancer or gastric cancer comprising administering to a subject in the need of the same an effective amount of a compound of claim 33.